

all human ills to eyestrain, veagotonia, syphilis, ovarian disease, disturbances of internal secretion, etc. Such enthusiasts undoubtedly do good by rousing the profession to the importance of these factors in certain cases; but we cannot help distrusting them as teachers and practitioners of medicine.

In spite of the drawbacks, Dr. Mayr's wide knowledge of the literature has enabled him to write a book which is more worthy of study than are some others better known to the American profession.

W. C. A.

Principles and Practice of Physical Diagnosis. By John C. DaCosta, Jr., M. D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. Third Edition, thoroughly revised. Octavo of 589 pages with 243 original illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1915. Cloth, \$3.50 net.

This, the third edition of the work, has been revised, new material has been added and some parts have been deleted to keep the size of the book down. As usual with such books, most of the space is taken up with a discussion of diseases of the lungs and heart. Considerable attention has been paid to modern methods in studying the heart, particularly to the electrocardiograph. The X-ray side of diagnosis seems a little weak but diagnosis is now so large a subject that in order to keep the book within the bounds of 600 pages, much must be left out. The author has wisely refrained from entering the field of laboratory diagnosis and has devoted his attention almost entirely to "physical diagnosis" and its mechanical aids.

Dr. DaCosta pays a great deal of attention to the pathology of the conditions studied and introduces many illustrations showing the diseased organs obtained at autopsy.

The book should be particularly useful to medical students for whom it was apparently primarily written.

W. C. A.

Theory and Practice of Bloodletting. By Heinrich Stern, M. D., LL. D. New York: Rebman Company, 1915.

A book devoted to a review of the history of blood letting, its present status in medicine and proposing an enlarged utility for this practice.

It gives in detail the methods of phlebotomy, leeching and venepuncture, advocating the author's method of doing the latter.

It goes into the theories of the effect of blood-letting and advocates its use as a more general remedial measure. It discusses its application in pulmonary diseases, plethora, heart lesions, uremia, eclampsia, chlorosis, migraine and several other conditions. It places therapeutic bleeding in a better light.

S. T. P.

Cancer of the Stomach. A Clinical Study of 921 Operatively and Pathologically Demonstrated Cases. By Frank Smithies, M. D., Gastroenterologist to Augustana Hospital, Chicago. With a Chapter on the Surgical Treatment of Gastric Cancer, by Albert J. Ochsner, M. D., Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Illinois. Octavo of 522 pages with 106 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1916. Cloth, \$5.50 net; Half Morocco, \$7.00 net.

This monograph of 500 pages is a presentation of the observations of its author. The 921 cases observed include those seen by Smithies at the University Hospital, Ann Harbor, Mayo Clinic and at the Augustana Hospital in Chicago.

In considering the etiology of cancer, it is shown that cancer is on the increase relatively and absolutely. There is an interesting discussion of the relation of gastric cancer to race, occupation, age, sex and social status. Especial attention is paid to the relation of gastric ulcer to cancer.

The chapter on morbid anatomy is splendidly illustrated by photographs of gross specimens and by many excellent micro-photographs. These are taken largely from the works of Wilson and MacCarty.

The symptomatology of gastric cancer is grouped under six symptom-complex heads:

1. Gastric cancer in individuals who came to laparotomy for clinically benign gastric ulcer, and in whom cancer was diagnosed microscopically.

2. Gastric cancer clinically developing in patients with years of antecedent dyspepsia of the "peptic ulcer type," in whom malignancy subsequently appeared.

3. Gastric cancer in individuals who prior to the onset of a malignant disease had enjoyed perfect gastric health.

4. Gastric cancer in individuals in whom malignancy followed periods of gastric disturbance of no clinical type.

5. Gastric cancer in individuals who presented few clinical evidences of a malignant process primary in the stomach wall.

6. Gastric cancer secondary to an extragastric malignant process.

The details of studying the gastro intestinal function have been given at some length. This includes the study of gastric contents, motility, feces, etc.

The chapter on roentgenology is abundantly illustrated.

"Differential diagnosis" is a very good summary of the book. The author takes cognizance of all the aids to diagnosis. He warns against laying too much stress on any one point. He says "There is too much unnecessary and usually valueless quibbling over finer points of differential diagnosis in abdominal disease. This is often to the patient's detriment. While learned, pseudo-scientific investigations are being carried on, or while certain medical attendants are awaiting the appearance of their pet differential points, not infrequently the subject of the research passes on beyond any form of aid. Rash surgery is to be condemned, but a sharp scalpel is often a more differential diagnostician than is the keenest mind, medically."

Two types of treatment are considered. The surgical treatment is very clearly presented by Ochsner. The operations are easily grasped on account of the well chosen drawings which illustrate the various procedures.

The indications for the different operations are given. Also the preparation of the patient and the after care.

The non-surgical treatment includes prophylaxis, care of mouth and bowels as well as the care of the local condition. Vaccine treatment, sero-therapy and chemotherapy are briefly mentioned.

The book is well written. It represents the results of a wide experience. It is well worth the careful attention of any physician, surgeon or student.

J. P. P.

Principles and Practice of Obstetrics. By Joseph B. De Lee, A. M., M. D., Professor of Obstetrics at the Northwestern University Medical School. Second edition, thoroughly revised. Large octavo of 1087 pages, with 938 illustrations, 175 of them in colors. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1915. Cloth, \$8.00 net; Half Morocco, \$9.50 net.

This compend of obstetrics is profusely illustrated and systematically arranged to meet the needs of the busy general practitioner. The volume is attractive for undergraduates, but is too extensive for them to read thoroughly in the crowded curriculum of the modern medical school. The short bibliography at the end of each chapter will prove of some aid to men who desire to study more in detail general obstetric problems, and will direct them to the more complete references contained in the German texts.

A. B. S.